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Holocaust Museum Recap, 8th Grade Graduation

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Taubie and Ella

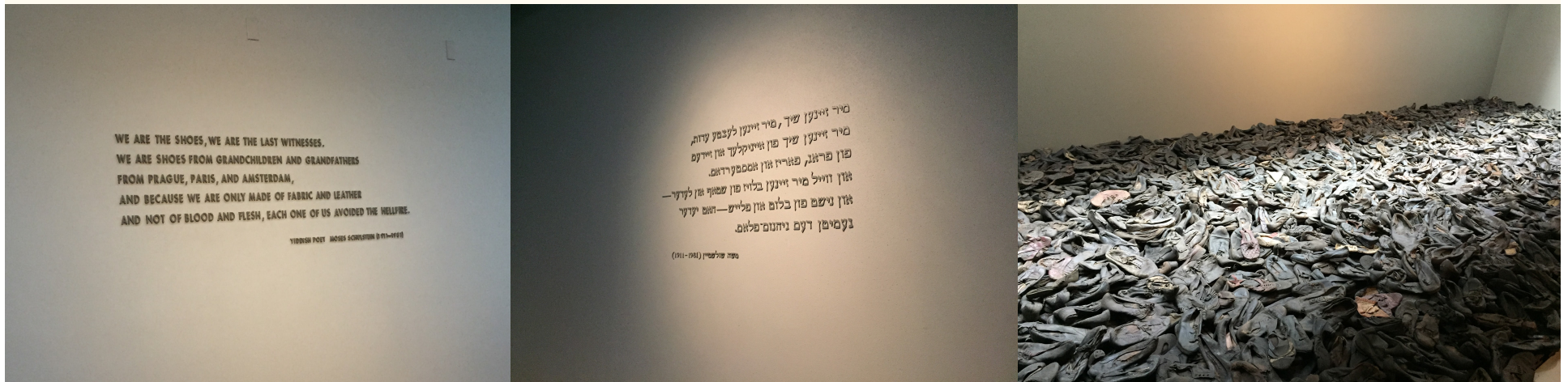
Taubie and Ella's story

We want to share a story with you from our trip to the Holocaust Museum. We were looking at a model of a gas chamber at Auschwitz and the plaque describing it said - The four gas chambers and crematorium constructed at Auschwitz Birkenau represent Nazi mass murder in its most industrialized form. Each of the four facilities could kill an average of 1000 victims per day. About 1 million Jews and thousands of non-Jewish victims were killed in the gas chambers at Auschwitz Birkenau.

We were really drawn to this exhibit and towards the end we met an older lady. We had a meaningful conversation with her and she expressed how important it was to her that we were there. She told us how crucial it was for our generation to remember and we should encourage our peers to never forget. Not only did she almost break into tears while telling us this, she also did not know we were Jewish. Not that she needed to know this, but it just goes to show that you don't have to be Jewish to learn and remember the Holocaust.

The Shoe Exhibit

The Shoe Exhibit was a room filled with actual shoes of Holocaust survivors.



FOR THE DEAD AND THE LIVING
WE MUST BEAR WITNESS

ELIE WIESEL

I REMEMBER A WOMAN WHO TRIED TO
THROW HER CHILDREN OUT OF THE
GAS CHAMBER, JUST AS THE DOOR
WAS CLOSING. WEEPING, SHE CALLED
OUT: "AT LEAST LET MY PRECIOUS
CHILDREN LIVE."

RUDOLF HÖSS, SS COMMANDANT OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU
POSTWAR MEMOIRS, 1947



FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE SOCIALISTS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A SOCIALIST.
THEN THEY CAME FOR THE TRADE UNIONISTS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A TRADE UNIONIST.
THEN THEY CAME FOR THE JEWS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A JEW.
THEN THEY CAME FOR ME—AND THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR ME.

MARTIN NIEMÖLLER (1892–1984), LUTHERAN MINISTER AND EARLY NAZI SUPPORTER
WHO WAS LATER IMPRISONED FOR OPPOSING HITLER'S REGIME



Quotes and Exhibits That Stood Out

Debriefing

- We went back to our hotel to have a debriefing.
- We were all gathered around a candle.
- Kara shared some statistics, one of them being “At Auschwitz, in the Gas chambers, the Nazis killed an average of 1000 people per day”.
- A few of us placed our 1000 toothpicks around the candle.
- Kara gave us another statistic and more people threw in their toothpicks.
- We did this until everyone's toothpicks were in the middle, surrounding the candle.
- Throughout the debriefing we shared words of what we felt, saw and experienced during our time at the museum.